



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
AGENCY**

**REGION 8, MONTANA OFFICE
FEDERAL BUILDING, 10 W. 15th STREET, SUITE 3200
HELENA, MONTANA 59626**

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June 28, 2005

Ref: 8MO

Honorable Denny Rehberg
U.S. House of Representatives
Attn: Marti Dalson-Kentzel
105 Smelter Avenue, NE
Suite 16
Great Falls, MT 59404

Dear Ms. Dalson-Kentzel:

Thank you for your June 10 letter inquiring about the details of a demolition of a building in Libby's downtown area. We understand that Mr. Tony Postlethwaite had several concerns about the work's impact on his business next door and did not believe he was appropriately consulted. Specifically he was concerned about the scheduling and was having a hard time contacting someone from EPA to address concerns about the financial impact of the demolition.

Since June 10, EPA and our contractors have been communicating with Mr. Postlethwaite about the work. The demolition began on Wednesday, June 22 and is estimated to take approximately three days to complete. Extensive air monitoring will be performed throughout demolition activities to confirm that work practices and dust suppression are adequate.

EPA asked and Mr. Postlethwaite agreed to close his business (Tony's Muffler and Tire) during the cleanup to avoid any potential, albeit unlikely, exposure to him or his customers. On the day the cleanup began, Mr. Postlethwaite did not want to close his business. He indicated that he believed EPA was conducting the cleanup in a safe manner and that dust suppression was good. EPA agreed that the work could continue while he conducted business next door.

Part of Mr. Postlethwaite's hesitation in closing his business stems from the fact that the government cannot compensate business owners for lost revenue. EPA can and is helping to cover operating expenses such as utilities, for businesses affected by the asbestos cleanup in Libby. To date, EPA has provided a generator for operation of equipment necessary to Mr. Postlethwaite's business while the electricity is shut off during demolition. We have also provided him with the necessary forms to submit to EPA for reimbursement of additional operating expenses if they arise. We will continue to work with Mr. Postlethwaite throughout the cleanup process to address any further concerns.



Please don't hesitate to contact me at 406-452-5001 for additional information. You may also contact the Project Manager, Peggy Churchill at 303-312-6137 or the Community Involvement Coordinator, Wendy Thomi in my office at 406-457-5037.

Sincerely,

John F. Wardell
Director
Montana Office